

May our words be *Dolce*,
Our hearts be *Giocoso*,
Our spirits, *Con Fuoco*,
And all our teaching, *Con Amore*

December 2011
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www.raleighpianoteachers.org

Yahoo group: raleighpianoteachers

Inside this Issue

1

- Message from the President
- December RPTA Brunch and Concert
- Don't Forget!!!!...
- New Members
- Out of the mouths of

2

- RPTA Scholarship Auditions
- 2012 Piano Playathon for Batten Disease
- Important Dates and Events
- Ruggero Piano Teacher Merit Award
- Important YAA Information

3

- RPTA Meetings
- Spotlight on the NCMTA Conference
- November RPTA General Meeting Minutes

Raleigh Piano Teachers Association

Affiliate of North Carolina Music Teachers Association

Message from the President

Margaret Anne Smith

Many thanks to Jeanine Skinner for the excellent program she gave at our last meeting. The handout and power point presentation were both very much appreciated. We had a good turnout for our November meeting; if you possibly can, please come to hear our excellent speakers.

The December meeting usually is followed by a brunch where we can enjoy a holiday get-together. In addition, at this year's December meeting, thanks to Amy Gardner who has organized it, we will enjoy hearing some of our own members play. This is going to be a real treat, folks, so plan to be there and enjoy this relaxing time together.

We always appreciate the work of Susan Burnette and her hospitality committee. The table at the November meeting was so delightful to look at that many people made pictures of it, which included those delicious turkeys and cornucopias made by Marie Willett!

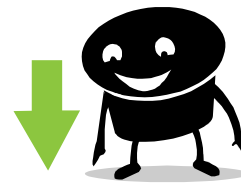
DECEMBER RPTA BRUNCH AND CONCERT

Plan to join RPTA members for a delicious brunch catered by Meredith College on Wednesday, Dec. 14. You will receive three treats for the price of one: A concert by RPTA members, our tasty holiday brunch AND time for rejoicing as YAA packets are turned in that day!

Please make reservations by sending a check **payable to RPTA** for \$8.50 by Fri., Dec. 9th to Susan Burnett: 6504 Ben Bur Rd., Raleigh, NC 27612-2302. Her email is: susanburnette@live.com.

Congratulations to our Newest Members: Monique Fisher, Cynthia Wade and Amy Edwards!!

Please make sure you introduce yourself and help them feel welcome into our wonderful organization!



DON'T FORGET!!!! YOUNG ARTIST PACKETS ARE DUE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH BY NOON IN THE LOBBY OUTSIDE OF CARSWELL HALL, MEREDITH COLLEGE!!!



Out of the mouths of babes

Setting: Marie Willett's Piano Studio
Time: Last week's piano lesson on a *Silent Night* duet:

Pointing at "Round yon Virgin Mother and Child," 8 year old Patrick asks, "What does *that* mean?"

Marie: "Uhhhh....'round yon' means to gather around."

Patrick: "No, no. *That* word." (pointing at "Virgin")

Marie: "You haven't heard of Mary, mother of Jesus?"

Patrick: "No."

Marie: "Well, maybe that's a question better for your mom to answer."

Patrick: "I know what *IT* means."

Marie: "Well....that's what it means when they're talking about Mary"

Patrick (in a frustrated tone): "Now WHY would they put *THAT* in a Christmas song?!?!"

RPTA Scholarship Auditions

Registrations must be postmarked NO LATER than January 14 or turned in at the January 18 monthly meeting.

To help with the planning, if you did not enter students last year, but are planning on entering this year, 2012...Please let Marie Willett know. Mewsicats@aol.com

The 2012 Piano Playathon for Batten Disease

We are busy organizing this year's Playathon and would like to invite all interested teachers to participate. The Playathon is a fun, low stress event that allows students the chance to perform without pressure, and to experience the joy of using their musical gifts and those hours of practicing to help another child. Students who have participated in past Playathons speak of it as the most motivating and exciting piano event of the year.

The dates for this year's Playathon are Saturday and Sunday February 18th and 19th. We are currently working on a location for the preceding weekend as well, so that students who are traveling during the school break can still participate. For more information on the Playathon please contact Pamela Tsai 919-848-1674 or tsaipiano@bellsouth.net. To learn more about Batten Disease and Taylor King, go to www.taylorstale.com.

Important YAA Information

The deadline for all YAA packets is on Wednesday, December 14th, 9:45 AM – Noon in the Carswell Lobby. Please double check the level corrections that have been announced in the October Newsletter or listed on the back of the October Meeting Agenda. The online repertoire list has all corrections incorporated in it.

YAA COMPOSITION ENTRIES!!!

The YAA Compositions entries are due on DECEMBER 14th by noon. NOT at the January meeting.

Ruggero Piano Teacher Merit Award

The Ruggeros have long recognized the value of music in our society. In generous support of the music educators of Raleigh Piano Teachers Association, Richard and Deborah Ruggero have established the —*Ruggero Piano Teacher Merit Award*. The recipient is chosen annually from nominated applicants and receives an award of \$500. The *Ruggero Piano Teacher Merit Award* recognizes an individual teacher who has made a difference in students' lives, has contributed to the advancement of music in their community, and has made significant contributions to RPTA, NCMTA, and/or MTNA. An applicant may be nominated by any RPTA member. The application form along with any supporting documents must be submitted in duplicate to the current RPTA President postmarked by December 31. The following items are examples of the type of documents that should be submitted with the application.

1. Teaching/professional achievements, and number of years teaching experience
2. Evidence of teaching excellence
3. Accomplishments/contributions to RPTA, NCMTA, and/or MTNA
4. Community involvement
5. Former student or parent letter of support
6. Professional colleague letter of support
7. Letter of recommendation from the nominating RPTA member

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IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

January 29, 2012
Musicale

February 4, 2012
RPTA Scholarship Auditions

February 12, 2012
RPTA Scholarship Auditions
Winners' Recital

February 18, 2012
NCMTA District Piano Festival

February 24-25, 2012
Federation Piano Festival

March 2-3, 2012
Young Artist Auditions

March 24, 2012
NCMTA State Piano Festival

April 22, 2102
Musicale

Teacher Referral

Teachers who need students and would like their name on the Teacher Referral Page of the RPTA website, please contact Ellen Scott at ellenscott@nc.rr.com or By phone #831-9167.

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RPTA MEETINGS

December 14, 2011
Brunch and Teacher Musicale

January 18, 2012
RPTA Meeting
Shelia Page

"Octaves and Staccatos"

February 15, 2012
RPTA Meeting
Tom Lohr

"Numbers in Music"

April 18, 2012
RPTA Meeting
Anne Scoggin

"Moving Beyond the Method
Books: Accelerate your
Students' Musical Growth"

A Spotlight on the Member Showcase of the NCMTA Conference

Our new feature this year at the NCMTA Conference allowed members to bring any items that they wanted to share/sell. I thought you might be interested in knowing what I bought...

- GORGEOUS music cards from Joni Hanna. They are the most wonderful cards I have ever seen for musicians. I have used them for thank you notes for Nelita True, Bob Vandall and others – they are PERFECT! You can see them at <http://www.etsy.com/shop/JoniHanna>
- CDs from Henry Doskey – I have always liked his interpretations of Gillock pieces. I purchased another of his CDs that feature Gillock, but I also bought 2 CDs of Henry playing the Debussy Preludes. When I hear him play, it takes me back to the ECU Conference when he performed at the most beautiful church. His website is www.greenmillrecordings.com.
- Yong Im Lee Federle brought a CD of her performing works by the Chilean composer Pedro Humberto Allende. She was born in Chile, and I believe this is what her doctoral work involved. I'm hoping that Yong Im will bring us a conference session on this composer next year.
- Sharyn Edwards brought CDs – a classic CD that she'd made in NY and a Christmas CD of Christmas carols. (I got the Christmas one.)
- Last but my no means least...RPTA's own Marie Willett brought the best cake pops and music jewelry. She gets 1st place for her creativity!

Most of the items were sold at discounted conference prices. Hopefully the Members Showcase will be at next year's conference too! What do you have to share with us?? Diane

RPTA General Meeting Minutes, November 16, 2011:

Meeting called to order by Margaret Anne Smith at 0951.

Minutes of the October 2011 meeting stand approved.

Treasurer's Report: Melissa Jeffreys is home with her new baby and appreciates all the cards and emails. A note from Melissa was read by Margaret Anne.

New Music Issues: Allen Herther passed out a flyer with new music available and gave a brief description of several pieces listed on the flyer. He also brought many of them for members to look at.

Membership: Dee Ann Patton announced Monique Fisher as a new member, and read her biography although Monique was unable to be present. Also, Cynthia Wade has rejoined RPTA.

Newsletter: Dana Mallory reminded us that the newsletter is available on the RPTA website. The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the last day of the month, but don't wait until the last day! If you need something printed every month, please send Dana a reminder each month.

Margaret Anne talked about the notebook that Amy Gardner is putting together to submit to MTNA as an application for North Carolina Music Teacher Organization of the year.

Vice-President-Program Chairman: Amy Gardner said that the teacher musicale for December will be 45 minutes at the maximum. Jeanine Skinner is presenting the program today which will be "Designing a Musical Diet for the Intermediate Student: A study of literature and technique that develop mature performers."

Certification: Margaret Anne reminded us that Kathleen Vockeroth and Julie Gorka are available to help anyone who needs assistance in becoming nationally certified.

History: Fay Ward brought posters with pictures of recent events. She thanked us for posing for her when she is taking pictures.

Hospitality: The December brunch is on December 14th and is \$8.50. Make the checks out to RPTA and give them to Susan Burnette.

IMTF: Dottie shared a number of very good answers to the question "How to get students motivated to practice?" which teachers have submitted to her.

Library: No report today.

RPTA Scholarship: Marie Willett asked for all teachers who are planning on entering students to sign up with her so she will have an idea of how many students will be participating.

YAA: Sky Woo asked us to look at our packets and make sure we understand the forms. Submissions are due on December 14th, which is the next RPTA meeting. YAA is in need of someone to be the Continuity Facilitator and the Monitor Coordinator, the latter being the person who will check in room monitors at specific times of the day. Please talk with Sky Woo if you are interested. Composition applications are due at the same time as the repertoire applications. Deadlines and information will be posted in the newsletters.

Old Business: Margaret Anne needs applications for the Ruggero Teacher Merit Award. Applications are due in to her by December 31.

Musicale: Alma Sparks challenged us to submit students to play on the January 29th Musicale at Maus Piano. The Musicale on Nov. 6th was lovely with 15 students who signed up and 14 students who played.

New Business: The Raleigh Music Club has applications available for a music contest that they sponsor on January 30th.

The Hopper Piano Sale generated \$850 for the scholarship fund.

Pam Tsai announced the Piano Playathon for Batten's Disease on February 11th, 12th, 18th, and 19th.

Allen Herther drew a raffle ticket and Margaret Anne Smith received Watercolor Miniatures by Carol Klose and a single sheet music of her choice.

Meeting adjourned at 10:31.

Respectfully Submitted by Debra Heath, RPTA recording secretary.